

DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE
STATE OF MISSOURI
JEFFERSON CITY

MEL CARNAHAN
GOVERNOR

JOHN L. SAUNDERS
DIRECTOR

February 11, 1999

Dr. Larry Hart
Board Executive Secretary
National Toxicology Program
111 T. W. Alexander Drive
Building 101, North Campus
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Dear Dr. Hart:

The mandate for NTP's periodic reports on carcinogens is hazard identification. NTP's consideration of alcohol beverages represents the first time a foodstuff has been reviewed. This involves many complicating factors which present a serious challenge for NTP. At minimum, an independent examination and analysis of the entire body of scientific literature pertaining to alcohol consumption must be undertaken and this has not yet been done.

The record of the NTP sub-committee effort in preparation, consideration and review of the listing shows there has been serious confusion among the members responsible for the procedures and process.

The vast majority of consumption of the beverages in consideration is recognized to be responsible use. The history of use of these beverages in society spans thousands of years. The government would do a major disservice in confusing the public by listing alcohol as a human carcinogen based on inconclusive evidence.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 800-392-WINE.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

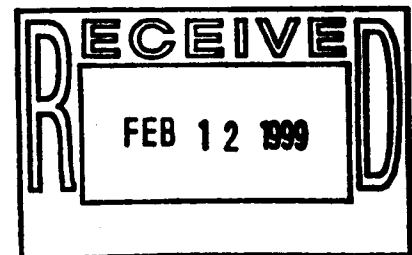
Sincerely,

Jim Anderson
Coordinator
Grape and Wine Program

dk

c: S. Wayne Yokley, Director, Market Development Division

AgrMissouri



Division of Market Development

Phone (573) 751-2613 • 1616 Missouri Boulevard • P.O. Box 630 • Jefferson City, MO 65102-0630 • FAX (573) 751-2868